

September 2020

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**Northwestern
Connecticut
Community
College**

The New Normal



Welcome to a new season and what a lot of us are calling *a new normal*.

Our Fall 2020 semester looks like no other in the enduring history of Northwestern, but students have adapted to online learning well and are prepared, as usual, to do what it takes to obtain an education.



Ranked Sixth In Nation: Still Number One in State

I am happy to announce that our level of service and commitment to our students has ranked Northwestern **the sixth best community college in the nation** and - for the fifth year in a row - **the number one community college in the state** by the financial services website WalletHub. We are proud of this distinction and I am thankful for the committed team of staff and faculty who have kept us on track during this past year. [Read more](#)

I am also grateful to the businesses and community members who have supported our efforts, and most importantly, our students. Many of you have provided us with generous support through our Foundation and Student Emergency Fund, and many of you as well, have provided internships and career challenges for our students and graduates. It is the *community* in community college that is a reminder of how our local higher education resource can benefit all of us.

I am looking forward to highlighting our students and their achievements within the community in future editions of this newsletter. In this issue, I invite you to learn more about just one of our exceptional students, as well as our latest programs to benefit individuals, business and industry, and some exciting events open to community attendance.

I hope you all continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Michael A. Rooke, Ph.D.
President

Student Spotlight: Robert Fecteau

We are very proud to announce that history student, **Robert Fecteau**, is a recent recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with funding provided by the U.S. government. The Gilman Program is part of an effort to expand the number of Americans studying and interning abroad and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education.

Fecteau wrote in his application essay *"I used to have this silly idea when I was a kid: that 'distant places' I only heard about in movies, books or conversation existed only in my imagination. It only seemed to reason that if these recurring references to fantastical places like 'San Francisco' or 'Paris' or even 'Germany' were real, then life would have to present some sort of opportunity for me to experience them."*

Fecteau was awarded the scholarship to participate in a study abroad trip to Germany with Northwestern's Study Abroad program. The trip is scheduled to take place in June of 2021. [Learn more about Northwestern's Study Abroad Program](#)

"If my experiences abroad could inspire just one person to study abroad who otherwise wouldn't have - that would mean a world of difference to me," said Fecteau. "I know I'll have forever changed their life, like I know this trip will change mine."

[Read More](#)

New Normal Business & Industry: Classes for Employers and Employees



For more information or talk about a customized program that exactly meets your companies needs, email Jane Williams at jwilliams@nwcc.edu or Gary Carra at gcarra@asnuntuck.edu

- How do you motivate virtual workers and also address the emotional needs of essential workers?
- How do you increase employee confidence and skills for conducting presentations when dealing with a host of new virtual platforms?
- How do you lead in uncertain times?

These questions and many more are addressed in the numerous online classes now being offered through the **NCCC Workforce Development and Continuing Education** office. Classes will be conducted online with short-term and flexible scheduling.

Class titles include:

- **A (WhatsApp) to Z (Zoom) Virtual Presentation Skills;**
- **Everyday Leadership during Pandemic Culture;**
- **The Upward Mobility & Supervisory Skills Toolkit;**
- **Emotional Intelligence on the "Corona Coaster" and many more.**

For more information, visit: [Business & Industry.](#)

Dr. Kris Roberts, managing partner of The Roberts Tax Group in Torrington, CT is presenting virtual tax seminars for business owners and individuals in September.

Business Year-End Tax Planning is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 23, 2020 from 7 to 8 p.m.**

Ready Your Business Books for Tax Preparation is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 7 to 8 p.m.**



All seminars are sponsored by **Torrington Savings Bank** and will be offered through an online platform. The seminars are free to the public, although registration is required. For more information visit the [Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut](#).

ENTREPRENEURIAL



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New Normal Spotlight: The Learning Resource Center



"It's not about the space - it's about the services."

Northwestern's **Learning Resource Center** is marked by the familiar sight of the rotunda as you drive down Route 44 toward the Winsted green.

Known by many as a community library when the buildings were open, many local residents enjoyed the expansive collection of reference materials, fiction and non-fiction, periodicals, computer and internet access, as well as numerous cultural events.

Unfortunately, the library is closed to the community at this time but staff are still working hard to ensure that students have access to all the reference materials they need for their studies. The staff's new motto: *It's not about the space - it's about the services*, has successfully launched a chat service for student's, drive-by pick-up service, and expanded hours.



Staff look forward to when community members may be invited back to the library. In the meantime, they invite the community to learn more about the [Learning Resource Center](#) by visiting the website. You can learn more about the history of the town and college by visiting the [library archives](#).

Virtual Events - Community Welcome!



Ken E. Nwadike, Jr.
Free Hugs Project
 documentary filmmaker,
 motivational speaker, and
 peace activist
Wed., Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
[For More Information](#)



Dr. Susan Herbst
*Presidential Elections 2020:
 A View from Political Science*
 Award Winning Author
 Political Science Educator
 Former UConn president
Thurs. Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
[For More Information](#)



Museum Treasures:
*Strong Women in
 Renaissance Italy*
Oct. 18 - Nov. 21
 Registration Still Open
[Enroll Here](#)

Gallery Hosts Former Students

The Gallery at Founders Hall will host a series of online exhibits featuring former art students who own art related businesses. The series will begin in October with month-long exhibitions focusing on the work of artistic entrepreneurs. [Read More](#)

At left: 2006 NCCC Fine Art graduate, Meredith Perrotto, in her studio in Berwick, Maine. She is the owner and sole artist at Soul Shine Maine



The [Northwestern Community College Foundation](#) (NCCF) supports financial needs that are not currently funded by the state for the benefit of students, staff and the community in general. NCCF also sponsors multiple scholarships annually. Thank you to all the generous donors who make these programs and scholarships possible.



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